

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated July 5, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

Claims 15-23 remain in this application. Claims 1-14 are canceled by this amendment. Claims 15-23 are new claims.

New claims 15-23 have been added as a result of this amendment. No new matter has been added and support for the new claims can be found throughout the originally filed specification.

Formal Matters

In section 2 of the Office Action the Examiner acknowledged the Applicant's claim to foreign priority based on application 10/081,488 filed on February 20, 2002 but also noted that a certified copy of the JP2001-197686 application filed on June 29, 2001 was not filed. A certified copy of the JP2001-197686 application is submitted with this response.

Claim Objections

In section 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 7 were objected to because of informalities. Since claims 1-5 and 7 have been canceled, this objection is now moot.

Claim Rejection Under 35 USC 103

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 6-10 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Sasaki et al. (U.S. Patent 5,812,995) in view of Skopicki (U.S. Patent 6,859,797) and in view of Brown et al. (U.S. Patent 5,913,208). Additionally, claims 3, 5, 11, and 13 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Sasaki in view of Brown. Since claims 1-14 have been canceled these rejections are now moot.

New claims 15-23 have been added as a result of this amendment. Although Sasaki, Skopicki, Brown, and Wadley were used to reject claims 1-14, these references, either individually or when combined, fail to teach the invention of claims 15-23. For example, none

Appl. No. 10/081,488
Amdt. dated November 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 5, 2005

PATENT

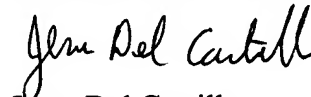
of the cited references teach "searching, by the similar document searching means, ..., to thereby obtain related information of a registered document having similarity with respect to the requested document." Since none of the cited references teach suggest or allude to a document information managing apparatus, method or program as claimed, counsel for assignee believes that these claims are patentable. Therefore, in light of this amendment counsel respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider his rejection and allow the claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



Jesus Del Castillo
Reg. No. 51,604

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
JDC:gjs

60608651 v1